

Melanie Dayton

From: Julie Briggs <brundagefuneralhome@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 10, 2014 6:07 PM
To: Melanie Dayton
Subject: Re: Economic Affairs Interim Committee meeting July 14 - 15 - considering Board of Funeral Service budget and fee related issues

Hi Melanie,

I can't be there as that is when Ron will be in Phoenix for his first treatments. I don't know if it is possible for you to share with them that these fees are devastating to us little guys out in the middle of nowhere Montana. We serve our communities well but there is only so much that you can charge for services and there is only a certain amount of business that we do. I would think that other types of businesses would be better able to absorb or compensate for rising licensing fees with advertising for more business but that isn't the case in funeral service. I don't know about anyone else in the state but I have absorbed the cost of rising licensing, rising taxes, rising EPA costs with shrinking income due to families not being able to provide the traditional services that they had in the past because of their own financial circumstances. Our cost to the consumer has definitely not increased even the slightest amount to be able to cover these snowballing charges that seem to bombard us. Unfortunately I am afraid that there are a good number of people that will not be able to continue to operate in the rural areas and they definitely will not be able to sell their businesses to those young energetic new faces that would like to provide the same service to those in rural Montana that I have. The cost to them would not even be feasible to open the doors. So in affect the rising cost of doing business for funeral service providers will see those funeral homes in rural areas disappear over time leaving rural Montana families coping with loss driving long distances during times of great stress in their lives.

Sincerely, Julie Briggs
Brundage Funeral Home

Economic Affairs Interim Committee
July 14, 2014
EXHIBIT 19